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# ShireBiz Bulletin

*The Shire Economic Development Alliance Newsletter*

**1st February 2022**

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## About ShireBiz

ShireBiz is a not for profit organisation dedicated to the Economic Development of Southern Sydney to enable sustainable business development which provides employment opportunities for the local community.

Our strategic pillars are:

- **Job Creation** through projects such as *Supporting the development of the ANSTO Innovation precinct*
- **Advocacy** such as *Improving Shire transport links*
- **Connecting the Community** through regular *newsletter*, and ZOOM and in person *events with prominent speakers*

**Shirebiz supporters** are invited to continue to support Shirebiz by becoming members. [Join at](#) If you want to regularly receive this Bulletin Contact the Secretary at [info@shirebiz.org.au](mailto:info@shirebiz.org.au)

## Microsoft chief to lead NSW skills board

There are changes across top tech jobs in the public and private sector while Sydney is asking consultants and Big Tech how to kick start its economic recovery. Australia's crime agency has appointed [Samuel Lewis](#) as its new chief information officer following a restructure of its technology division last year. Mr Lewis has previously been chief technology officer at the Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission, and will lead its CIO branch from next week as the Commission implements [a massive biometrics system upgrade](#).

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## Electric vehicles and Australia's fast-charging network: which states are on the right track?

Australia's states and territories are delivering [new programs](#) for electric vehicles to make EVs more accessible for the average Australian income and entice a new range of electric models into our vehicle market. Here, we break down the latest state packages and promises for electric vehicles – including networks of fast-charging stations, long-term targets, and purchase incentives – all pursued to keep significant emissions out of Australia's transport sector.

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## Top five challenges facing small companies entering China and how to overcome them

Entering the Chinese market and selling to China's 1.4 billion potential consumers is an epic undertaking. Businesses that understand the potential challenges associated with expanding must use a [cross-border marketplace](#) that will help small and medium enterprises (SMEs) navigate supply-chain disruptions, a rising need for sustainable practices and language barriers.

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## World Economic Forum launches first quantum computing roadmap

"The critical opportunity at the dawn of this historic transformation is to address ethical, societal and legal concerns well before commercialisation," World Economic Forum head of Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning, Kay Firth-Butterfield said. "[This report](#) represents an early intervention and the beginning of a

multi-disciplinary, global conversation that will guide the development of quantum computing to the benefit of all society.”

## **GenT device developed to convert waste into electricity for industry**

A [thermovoltaic device](#) that will convert infrared energy from waste heat sources into electricity is being developed by technology company, [PhosEnergy](#), and the University of South Australia in collaboration with the Innovative Manufacturing Cooperative Research Centre (IMCRC).

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## **Coal, gas power shrinking in Australia as renewable energy shines**

Renewable energy is squeezing fossil fuels further out of [Australia's power mix](#), accounting for a record-high share of average electricity generation in the final three months of 2021 and threatening the viability of coal-fired power plants. The influx of large-scale wind and solar farms coupled with an ongoing boom in the uptake of rooftop solar panels have been radically reshaping the national electricity market and slashing daytime wholesale prices to levels at which the dominant sources of power – coal and gas – struggle to compete.

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## **ARI – Career & Training Newsletter – *Retail as a career***

Whilst 2022 is off to a challenging start due to Omicron, the new year is an opportune time to invest in yourself and your team. The ARA Retail Institute is primed to support your organisation through careers and skills training tailored to the current retail and personal services environment. Through collaboration and partnership with industry and commonwealth and state governments, we are pleased to launch many new member and [jobseeker education and training product](#) initiatives in 2022.

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## **Apprentice and trainee commencements continue to climb**

Apprentice and trainee commencements have continued their climb from Covid-affected lows and are now running at their highest level in eight years. The [latest data](#) from the National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER) shows apprentice and trainee commencements grew nationally to 47,785 or 114 per cent in the June quarter 2021 compared with the same quarter in 2020.

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### **Lavo and Itochu in hydrogen storage link-up**

Hydrogen energy storage manufacturer LAVO and global trading company ITOCHU Corporation have signed a [Memorandum of Understanding](#) to explore opportunities to utilise LAVO technology, which could ultimately lead to future investment by Itochu in the Lavo company. Under the MoU, LAVO and ITOCHU will jointly investigate to develop a strategy for a hydrogen supply chain utilising LAVO's technology.

### **Amy Brown to lead NSW' trade and investment super agency**

Investment NSW chief executive Amy Brown will oversee the state government's wider innovation-led economic development as [secretary](#) of the newly formed Department of Enterprise Investment and Trade from Monday. Ms Brown, a former lawyer who has moved between the public and private sector for the last decade, has led Investment NSW since the agency was established last year as a 'one-stop shop' for businesses within the Department of Premier and Cabinet cluster.

### **OECD Artificial Intelligence and the future of work**

In recent years, Artificial Intelligence (AI) has made significant progress in areas like information ordering, memorisation, perceptual speed, and deductive reasoning – all of which are related to non-routine, cognitive tasks. As a result, the occupations that have been [most exposed](#) to advances in, and automation by, AI have tended to be high-skilled, white-collar ones, including: business professionals; managers; science and engineering professionals; and legal, social and cultural professionals.

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*Regards,*

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